

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
BRYSON CITY DIVISION
CRIMINAL CASE NO. 2:11cr09**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
)
 vs.)
)
)
 GREGORY L. CLINE.)
 _____)

ORDER

THIS MATTER is before the Court on the Appellant's Notice of Appeal [Doc. 2] and the Appellant's Unopposed Motion to Continue Surrender Date [Doc. 3]. The Government does not oppose the motion.

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

The Appellant was convicted on April 21, 2011 of the offense of tampering with property within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, in violation of 36 C.F.R. §2.31(a)(1). [Doc. 1]. The offense occurred on September 23, 2010. [Id., at 2]. The Defendant was issued the violation notice on October 28, 2010 at which time the charging officer released him with a future mandatory court date. [Id.]. At that court date on April 20, 2011, the Magistrate Judge sentenced the Defendant to serve fifty-seven days in custody and to pay restitution in the amount of \$57.00, a \$10.00 assessment

and a \$25.00 processing fee. [Id., at 1]. The Appellant filed timely notice of appeal on May 2, 2011. [Doc. 2].

STANDARD OF REVIEW

The release of a defendant after conviction by a Magistrate Judge of a petty or misdemeanor offense but during the pendency of an appeal is controlled by “the law relating to release pending appeal from a district court to a court of appeals.” Fed.R.Crim.P. 58(g)(3). 18 U.S.C. §3143(b) provides in pertinent part:

[T]he judicial officer *shall* order that a person who has been found guilty of an offense and sentenced to a term of imprisonment, and who has filed an appeal ... be detained, unless the judicial officer finds-

(A) by clear and convincing evidence that the person is not likely to flee or pose a danger to the safety of any other person or the community if released ...; *and*

(B) that the appeal is not for the purpose of delay and raises a substantial question of law or fact likely to result in-

- (i) reversal,
- (ii) an order for a new trial, [or]
- (iii) a sentence that does not include a term of imprisonment[.]

18 U.S.C. §3143(b) (emphasis provided).

DISCUSSION

The Appellant has shown, and the Government does not dispute, that

between the time the violation notice was issued in October 2010 and his mandatory court date in April 2011, he was released without demonstrating any risk of flight or danger to the community. After conviction, the Appellant, who resides in North Carolina, was allowed by the Magistrate Judge to self-report when notified by the United States Marshal. [Doc. 1]. The Court finds that the Appellant is not likely to flee or pose a danger to the safety of any other person or the community if released

There has been no allegation by the Government that the appeal has been taken for the purposes of delay. Although the Appellant has not stated the specific substantial questions of law and/or fact in support of his appeal, the appeal appears to relate to the imposition of a custodial sentence for the offense at issue. Because the Government has agreed that the Appellant should remain released pending appeal, the Court finds it has conceded that a substantial question of law or fact will be raised.

A timely notice of appeal having been filed, the Court will enter a scheduling order for the briefs on appeal. The Court further will stay the Appellant's sentence of imprisonment pending the resolution of this appeal. See Fed. R. Crim. P. 38(b); Fed. R. Crim. P. 58(g)(3).

The Appellant was represented by court appointed counsel in the proceedings below. The Court will continue that appointment for the purposes

of this appeal.

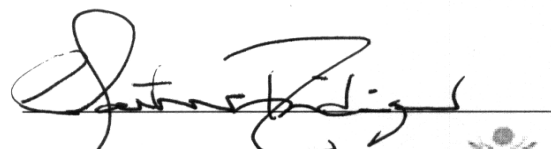
ORDER

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that the Appellant's Unopposed Motion to Continue Surrender Date [Doc. 3] is hereby **GRANTED** and the Appellant need not report to the United States Marshal until resolution of the pending appeal.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Appellant's brief on appeal shall be filed on or before thirty (30) days from entry of this Order and the Appellee's brief in response shall be filed on or before thirty (30) days thereafter. All such briefs shall not exceed twelve (12) pages in length and shall be in fourteen (14) point type.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Heather H. Martin of the Federal Defenders of Western North Carolina shall continue in her capacity as appointed counsel for the Appellant during the pendency of this appeal.

Signed: May 3, 2011


Martin Reidinger
United States District Judge

